

Our Heritage

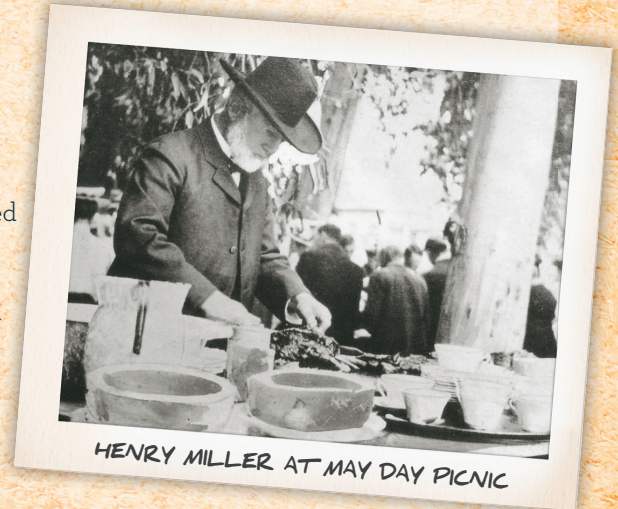


Henry Miller came to California in the 1850s with little more than a strong work ethic and a love of agriculture.

His passion and hard work helped him become a success, and his vision transformed much of the San Joaquin Valley. Henry Miller recognized the value and importance of people and community. To reward his employees for hard work and to thank the community for supporting agriculture, he started the tradition of a May Day Picnic.

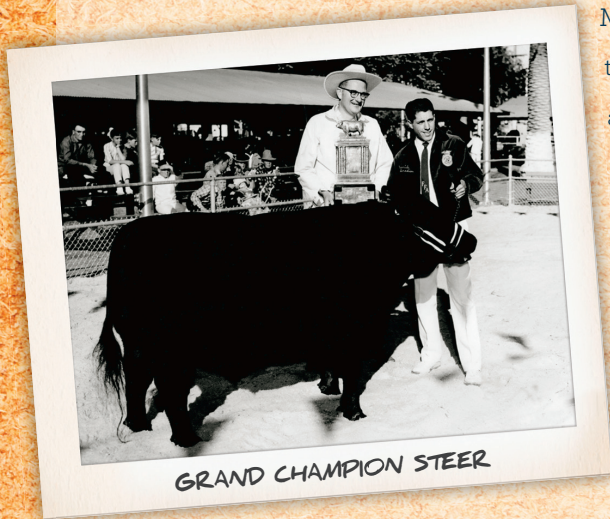
When Henry Miller hosted his first May Day Picnic in 1890, he probably never imagined that it would one day grow into a beloved tradition called the Merced County Spring Fair. This annual event now has a statewide reach as it highlights the role of agriculture in our daily lives.

The Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation was formed in 2011, when State funding was pulled from California County Fairs. Award premiums, educational exhibits and scholarships were all at risk until Heritage Foundation members provided the financial support necessary to continue these aspects of the fair.



Did you know...

- The fair pays in excess of \$50,000 in prize money to youth each year
- Over 5,500 youth exhibit livestock, ag mechanics, sewing, cooking, and art projects
- More than 6,000 students visit via our free School Tour Program to experience hands on learning



Members of the Foundation pledge their ongoing support to ensure a venue to showcase and demonstrate the agricultural lifestyle; provide an opportunity for youth to exhibit their knowledge and skills in agriculture; and remind our community of the origin of their food and fiber. Donor benefits include fair passes and an invitation to the Annual Spring VIP Event that kicks off the May Day Fair season.

Your support of the Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation ensures that the legacy of Henry

Miller will continue. Join us to cultivate leaders for the future and preserve the rich agricultural heritage that we all value.